ABSTRACT

According to one embodiment, traffic load is redirected in reaction to traffic overload or a link failure in a packet-based network that is formed by nodes and links, packets being distributed along multiple paths to other links of an associated array of paths. The redistribution is performed autonomously by the node which is located immediately upstream of the affected link. According to a further development of the method, nodes that are located upstream of the concerned node are notified and are made to perform a redistribution that relieves the concerned node if the array of paths is not made overload-free by the redistribution performed by the node. A mechanism that protects against overload and failures and reacts in a significantly more flexible and less error-prone manner than networks having a central control body due to the nodes being autonomous is provided.